

100-4817

7 December 1960

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Mr. Roger Delaney
Office of Security Review
Department of Defense
Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Delaney:

CIA has reviewed the NOTES ON U.S. vs U.S.S.R. CAPABILITY and recommends that the NOTES be revised. These NOTES contain classified information which should not be made public by anyone in the U.S. Government. The last paragraph on Page 6 touches on highly classified data and the entire paragraph should be deleted.

The following specific comments are made in the hope of making more accurate and more security-safe the final address being prepared by the Secretary of Defense:

Page 1, Para. 3- The statement that the U.S.S.R. has no operational air-to-surface missiles to compare with those of the United States should be checked further before being approved for inclusion in this proposed public statement.

Page 2, Para. 2- The second sentence, that the United States is about even with the U.S.S.R. in ICBM's, is misleading. This Agency has no official knowledge as to the number of operational United States ICBM's. Although we have not positively identified any operationally deployed ICBM sites in the U.S.S.R., our estimate is that some 75-85 ICBM's are now on launcher in the U.S.S.R.

Page 2, Para. 3- The statements that the Soviets say have a moderate numerical superiority in ICBM's for two years, which then would be greatly reduced or even

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Page 2, Para. 3-
(cont.)

eliminated, depends upon what is meant by "moderate superiority." We do not know the U.S. numbers. CIA estimates that the U.S.S.R. will have some 270 ICBM's on launcher by mid-1968; these probably will have a very large warhead and great accuracy.

Page 3, Para. 3-

The statements on surface-to-air missiles do not take into account the extremely large number and wide dispersal of Soviet SA-2 missiles in the U.S.S.R. Also, it probably would be better to use the term "Guideline missiles" instead of "SA-2."

Page 5, Para. 1-

On numbers of submarines, the numbers given for those of the Soviets should state that 100 are coastal types. For those of the United States, perhaps the number 150 would be better than the 110-120.

Page 5, Para. 2 -

As to nuclear-powered submarines, the language here should clearly indicate that the Soviets have almost certainly launched a few nuclear-powered submarines. Whether or not they are assigned to an "operational" status is another matter, and perhaps less important.

Page 6, last Para.

The publication of the statements in this paragraph would constitute a serious security violation. Even the generalizations given in the first sentence should be considered highly classified.

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Further, one should certainly not say that Soviet naval aviation has been virtually abandoned. It has been cut back in certain respects, bolstered in others, and generally rationalized for a strictly naval role.

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Assistant to the Director

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